

CPYRGHT

WASHINGTON LETTER



To the Readers of The Christian Science Monitor:

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NEW SECURITY COUNCIL TEAM LAUDED

The occasional reports which leak out from the inner sanctum of U.S. Government grand strategy, the National Security Council, all agree that conditions are much better there now and that we have every reason to expect a more coherent foreign policy formation and implementation than we have been getting.

One key to the improvement is that the three most important participants in NSC deliberations possess unusual facilities for communication. All three not only come from Boston, and at the "proper" level.

They also all come from Harvard -- two Cum Laude. They are Christian Herter, who speaks for the State Department, Robert Amory Jr., who speaks for the Central Intelligence Agency, and Robert Cutler, who runs the staff of NSC and speaks for the President.

Add that none of the three has further political ambitions. Mr. Herter has retired from active politics. Messrs. Cutler and Amory have no desire to get into them. They are all in there to do a job of high level public service -- and do it. By those who

Still Trying



Don Hayes in St. Louis Globe-Democrat

should know it is said to be the best team yet put together in this center of government where the decisions affecting peace or war are made.

The situation is not as good in the Cabinet where, since the departure of Arthur Burns, former chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, Treasury Secretary George Humphrey exercises decisive influence due to the sheer force of his personality. Those who have sat through Cabinet meetings before and after Mr. Burns left say that Messrs. Burns and Humphrey used to balance each other but that since Mr. Burns left no one else dares to talk back to the formidable gentleman from Cleveland.

This situation lies at the bottom of White House vacillation over the budget. It was a Burns budget. He had been able to persuade the President that the country not only could stand it but also needed it. Mr. Humphrey was against the budget; subsequently persuaded the President to take a weak position on his own budget.

BOHLEN SHIFT LAID TO MISUNDERSTANDING

Charles E. Bohlen, top U.S. expert on the Soviet Union, is leaving Moscow a year earlier than expected or intended solely because of a misunderstanding on the part of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Mr. Dulles thought Mr. Bohlen wanted to leave, assigned the job to Llewellyn Thompson. Everyone regrets the departure of Mr. Bohlen who is regarded